

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

DECEMBER 22, 2008

WORKSHOP

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in workshop session with the following members present: Chairman Billy E. Traylor, and Commissioners Nathan Peters, Jr., Warren J. Yeager, and Carmen L. McLemore. Commissioner Bill Williams arrived at 4:35 p.m.

Others Present were: Deputy Clerk Kayla Duke, Clerks Finance Director Carla Hand, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, County Attorney Tim McFarland, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Human Resource Director Denise Manuel, Assistant Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Animal Control Officer Roland Jones, Planner David Richardson, G.I.S. Director Scott Warner, and Sheriff Joe Nugent.

Chairman Billy E. Traylor called the workshop to order at 4:30 p.m., E.T.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Chief Administrator Butler updated the Board on the progress of hiring an employee to fill the vacant position for the animal control department. The Board discussed options of whether to hire now or temporarily transfer from within; and how this might affect the bargaining unit contract. Commissioner McLemore stated that there is an immediate need to fill this position but feels that a transfer would be best, due to possible budget shortfalls. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Peters, Human Resource Director Manuel stated that the animal control position is a non-bargaining unit position and could create a problem with the Union. County Attorney McFarland agreed and stated that the best way to fill this position now, without hiring from the outside, would be to transfer a non-bargaining unit employee into this position. After further discussion, and upon Chairman Traylor's inquiry, Human Resource Director Denise Manuel stated that a union employee can voluntarily move into the Animal Control position, if it is offered, but the Union would probably require an Agreement. Upon Chief Administrator Butler's suggestion, the Board directed Human Resource Director Manuel to discuss this with the Union.

TDC/BOND

Commissioner Williams discussed the MSTU bond and the need to have a plan to meet our payment obligation as property values continue to decline.

ELECTIONS

Chairman Traylor stated that he felt residents living in the Overstreet area were disenfranchised during the last election, due to the 35 mile round trip to vote. Chief Administrator Butler presented a map depicting the closest precincts, including those that were opened during the last election. The map also depicted the approximate millage to each precinct. After further discussion, the Board agreed to resolve this issue by vote in a regular meeting, in favor of opening the Overstreet precinct at the 2010 election.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Upon Commissioner McLemore's inquiry, Animal Control Officer Roland Jones stated that he is pleased with the Board's direction concerning filling the Animal Control position. Upon further inquiry from Commissioner McLemore, Animal Control Officer Jones stated that there are 3 to 4 "slack" months throughout the year. Commissioner McLemore discussed the possibility of hiring a part time employee for Animal Control. Commissioner Williams discussed using a "call ratio system" with an outsourcing company. County Attorney McFarland thanked Animal Control Officer Jones for his hard work.

There being no further business, the meeting did then adjourn at 5:00 p.m., E.T.

**BILLY E. TRAYLOR
CHAIRMAN**

ATTEST:

**REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK**